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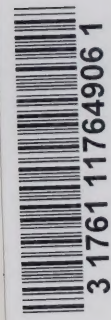
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Canadian Parks
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Service canadien
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UPDATE | FALL 1989



Dear Participant:

Over the past several months as Director General, I have been impressed with the interest and involvement that the public has shown in response to our programs. I welcome this opportunity to thank you for your comments.

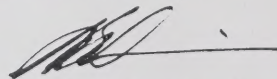
As a result of meeting with you and reading your letters, my staff and I are aware that it is not always clear when there are opportunities for public comment or how the comments are used by the Canadian Parks Service. There are two articles in this newsletter which address these questions. One summarizes the process of preparing a park management plan, the other gives some examples of where public input has and has not been used. If you have any topics that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters, please write to the Public Consultation Coordinator.

Since the last newsletter, we have initiated and completed public consultation programs for the Mt. Norquay Ski Area and the Banff General Municipal Plan. The anticipated public review of the Sunshine expansion proposal generated a great deal of public interest and concern but meetings were canceled when the expansion proposal was withdrawn. We are now preparing guidelines to direct the preparation of any forthcoming proposal. These guidelines will be available for public review and I assure you that we will consult with the public about any future expansion proposal for the Sunshine ski area.

Over the next several months, we will be consulting with you during the preparation and review of a number of plans. If you wish to be on the mailing list for upcoming programs, please return the attached mail-back card.

Thank you for your participation to date and for your continued involvement.

Yours sincerely,



*Sandra B.M. Davis
Director General
Western Region*

WATERTON LAKES PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Eleven years ago, in 1978, the first Park Management Plan was approved for Waterton Lakes National Park. Much has changed since that time, in terms of park visitation and our knowledge of the park's heritage resources. Canadian Parks Service policies and the park planning process have changed, and fiscal restraint has become a fact of life. In addition, a greater emphasis has been placed on regional relationships with the establishment of the Waterton Biosphere Reserve, as part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, and other programs.

It is time for a second look at Waterton Lakes National Park and its future, within the framework of the 1990s. A formal review of the Park Management Plan has commenced. It is long overdue and will therefore follow a process similar to the development of a new Park Management Plan. The revised Park Management Plan will provide direction on resource protection and management, visitor activities and facilities, support facilities, and regional integration in the park for the next 15 years. Public consultation will play an integral part in the plan review.

A newsletter is available which describes the plan review process, opportunities for public involvement and the scope of the plan review. The newsletter also presented for public review and comment, a draft Park Purpose and Objectives Statement. If you did not receive a copy of the newsletter, and wish to be kept informed about the Waterton Lakes Park Management Plan Review, please return the mailback card included at the back of this newsletter.



The Prince of Wales Hotel is a renowned Waterton landmark.

PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK

Pacific Rim National Park dates back to 1972 when an agreement was reached between the Federal Government and the Province of British Columbia to establish Canada's first national park on the Pacific Coast. The park is situated on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and consists of three separate park units. These are Long Beach between the communities of Tofino and Ucluelet, the Broken Group Islands in Barkley Sound and the West Coast Trail between the communities of Bamfield and Port Renfrew.

The Long Beach Unit, including Grice Bay and a small satellite area on Kennedy Lake, is the most accessible part of the park. It is the most intensively developed area providing a major nature centre, campgrounds, extensive day-use facilities and a system of interpretive trails. The main attraction is Long Beach, 12 kilometres of hard-packed sand exposed to the Pacific surf.

There are over 90 islands in the Broken Group Islands. This group of islands, surrounded by the open waters of Barkley sound, provides an important marine component to the national park. The major

consideration is the opportunity to preserve in an undisturbed state the flora, fauna and sea life associated with a group of offshore islands. Access to the Broken Group Islands is by boat, kayak or canoe. Once the open water crossing has been made, the sheltered waters among the islands permit leisurely enjoyment of the rich variety of the marine habitats. Primitive campsites are available on designated islands.

The West Coast Trail encompasses the coastline from Cape Beale to Port San Juan and includes the Tsusiat-Squalicum-Hobiton Lake watershed wilderness area of coastal old growth forest. The primary significance of this park unit is the very rugged coastline and the "grave yard of the Pacific" where more than 40 ships have perished on the rocks. The West Coast Trail is the main attraction. This 77 kilometres long trail along the coast is recognised internationally as one of the premiere wilderness hiking trails in North America.

Although the initial federal-provincial agreement was signed in 1972 the final agreement which determined the boundaries was not signed until 1987. During this interim period a number of

plans were prepared to guide the development and management of the park areas and facilities were developed to accommodate the growing use of the park.

Now that the boundaries for Pacific Rim National Park have been finalized, it is time to review and examine the management, development and use of this park, its role in the region, impact of the park on the local communities, and the potential for co-operative management of the fishery and forestry resources in the park and the adjacent marine and land areas. Comprehensive surveys of visitors to the park are being done this year and will be completed in November. Starting this winter, it will take two years to prepare a management plan for Pacific Rim National Park. The plan will guide the management and the development of the Long Beach, the Broken Group Islands and the West Coast Trail park units for the next 15 years.

Public consultation will be an important part of the preparation of the management plan. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming planning program and wish to receive information, please indicate and mail back the enclosed card.



SOUTH MORESBY/GWAII HAANAS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE - AN UPDATE

THE NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

The July 1988 agreement between British Columbia and Canada for the establishment of a new national park in the Queen Charlotte Islands is the first-ever agreement establishing a park reserve which also includes a regional economic initiative.

The Canadian Parks Service remains committed to a full partnership with the Haida Nation in the planning, management and operation of the national park reserve. Every effort is being made to work towards an agreement suitable to the legislated mandate of national parks and the interests of the Haida people. This commitment was reaffirmed when the Honourable Lucien Bouchard, Minister of Environment, met with Miles Richardson, President of the Council of the Haida Nation on April 15 in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The exciting potential exists for a management arrangement unique to the Canadian national park system.

In early May, the Council of the Haida Nation in cooperation with Canadian Parks Service planted some 60,000 Sitka spruce seedlings as part of a project to rehabilitate logged areas of Lyell Island. Due to the circumstances involved in the establishment of the national park reserve, the logging company on Lyell Island was relieved of normal restoration responsibilities which remained incomplete at the time logging operations were stopped in late June 1987.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Committees are in place and some studies are underway. And, says REDI manager Jervis Swannack, "We're raring to go."

A study that will be a key step in the economic development strategy for the Islands was let recently by Tourism Canada. The **Queen Charlotte Islands Tourism Development Plan** will serve as a major element of that strategy, to be developed by the federal-provincial Planning and Coordination Committee, the body set up under the South Moresby Agreement to develop the strategy and oversee its implementation under the \$50 million Initiative. Current plans indicate that the strategy should be in place about one year from now.

QCI residents now have an official voice in the Initiative with the creation recently of the **Residents' Planning Advisory Committee**. The Committee is currently working on proposals which could be implemented as part of the Initiative. A proposal currently being reviewed by the committee, and provided for in the South Moresby Agreement, is the Canadian Parks Service reception and information centres – one in Queen Charlotte City and one in Sandspit. The project will, "as much as feasible and as practicable," says Swannack, "employ local labour, material and services." We are aiming for an opening of the Centres in May, 1991.

Fisheries & Oceans (Canada) is conducting studies for a small craft harbour in Sandspit. The harbour, says Swannack, is "a specific project of the Agreement" and will be used by "local boats, fishing fleets, and for small craft employed in the tourism industry."

Forestry Compensation Account

On March 29, 1989, Canada presented a cheque for \$22.38 Million as the remaining federal contribution of \$23 Million to the "South Moresby Forestry Compensation Account." B.C.'s contribution is \$8 Million. This fund was established as part of the Canada - British Columbia Agreement for South Moresby and is intended to be used for compensation to forest companies which hold tree farm licences in land areas identified as part of the proposed national park reserve.

New Co-ordinator for B.C. Park Projects Office

Mr. Jim Christakos took over the position of Co-ordinator for the region's B.C. Park Projects office on April 1st. He replaces Mr. Pat Thomson who retired on March 31st. Mr. Christakos was formerly the Regional Director General for the Canadian Parks Service's Ontario Region.

LAKE O'HARA AREA PLAN

The Lake O'Hara area in Yoho National Park is one of the best known and loved backcountry areas in the Canadian National Parks System. The combination of high use demands and fragile alpine and subalpine resources present serious challenges for park managers.

The recently approved Yoho Park Management Plan contains a considerable amount of direction for the Lake O'Hara area, including the following:

- the area is designated a Zone III - Natural Environment area where visitor use and resource protection must be carefully balanced;
- the O'Hara campground and Lake O'Hara Lodge will continue to operate at their current capacities;
- the Alpine Club of Canada will be permitted to construct a new facility to replace the Elizabeth Parker Shelter, at a site close to the access road;
- vehicular access on the O'Hara road will continue to be restricted to service vehicles and public transportation; and
- the Lake O'Hara area will receive a priority for improvements to facilities such as trails, the campground and information/interpretation services.

A number of issues remain to be resolved through more detailed area planning. Background information for the Lake O'Hara Area Plan is being collected this summer. This includes a survey to find out more about O'Hara visitors, their expectations and satisfaction with their visits. A draft area plan will be prepared over the fall of 1989 and winter of 1990, to address

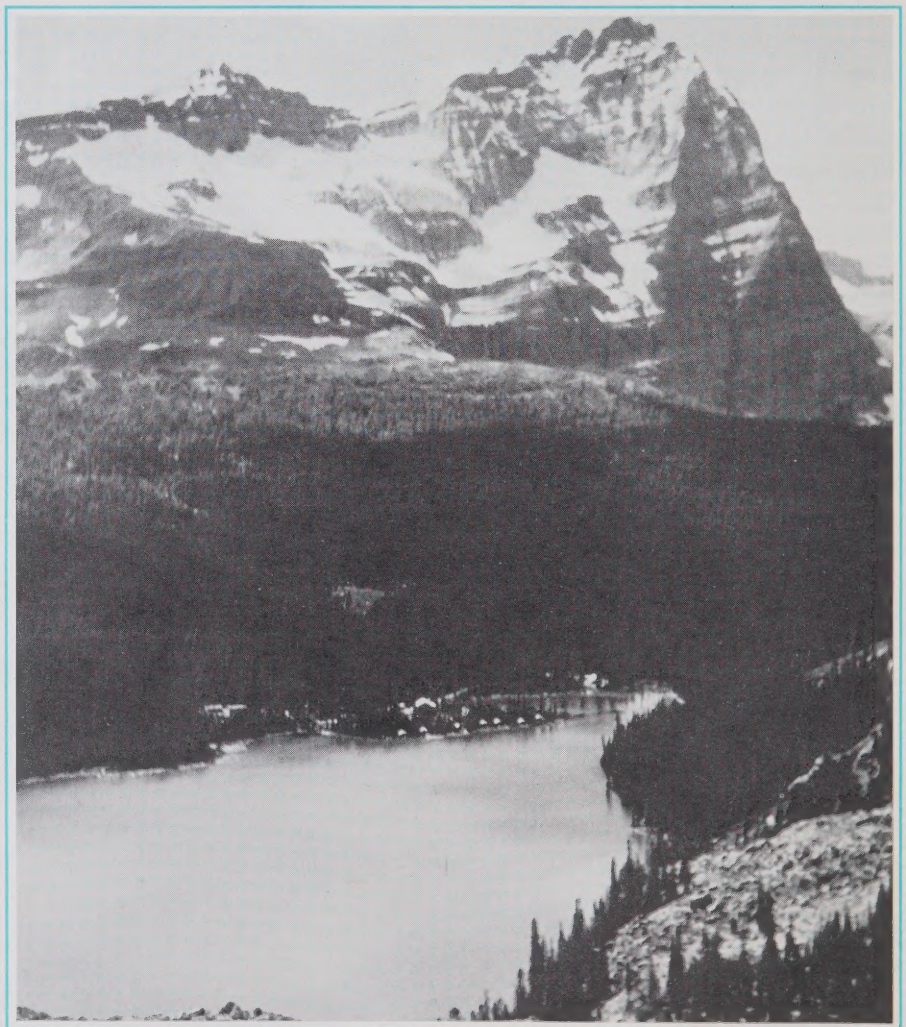
such concerns as:

- the role of the area within Yoho National Park and the Four Mountain Parks;
- the type of visitor experience to be provided in the area;
- a rational visitor management strategy which addresses environmental and social concerns;
- guidelines for future trail redevelopment;

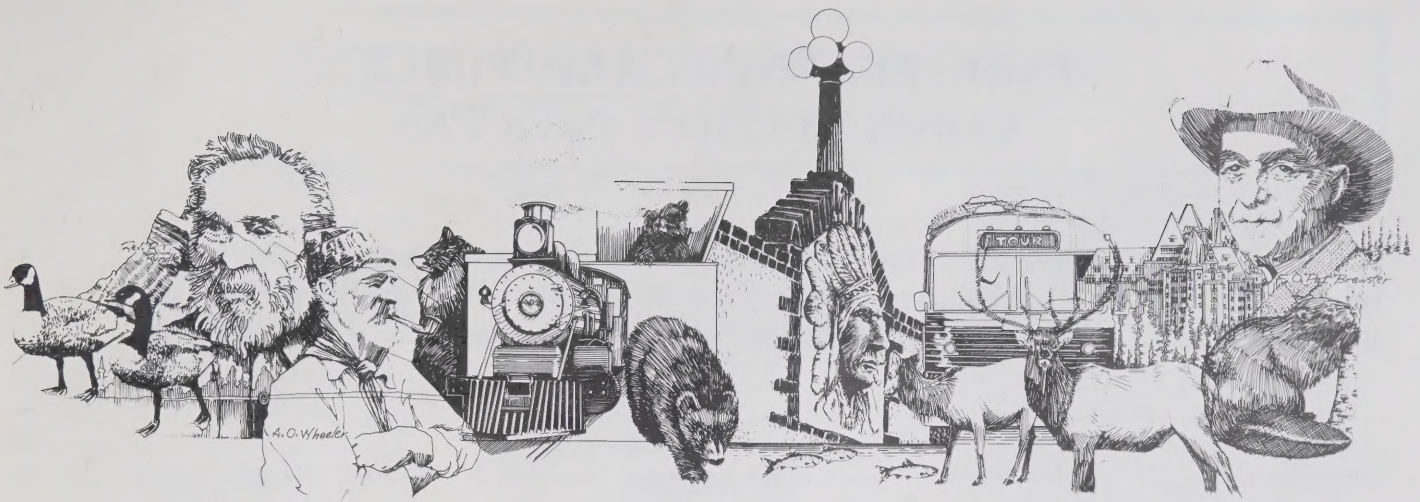
-specific resource management strategies; and

-communications themes, messages and approaches.

There will be an opportunity for interested members of the public to review and comment on the draft Lake O'Hara Area Plan. If you would like to be kept informed about this planning program, please fill out and return the attached mailback card.



Lake O'Hara foreground, Mt. Odaray



TOWN OF BANFF GENERAL MUNICIPAL PLAN

Preparation of new long range planning policies for the Town of Banff is nearing the final stages and it is anticipated that the new General Municipal Plan will be approved prior to the town's incorporation as a municipality on January 1, 1990.

A draft version of the Town of Banff General Municipal Plan was presented to the public at open houses and meetings in Banff and Calgary in late February, 1989. Comments were received from individuals and groups at these events and in writing through briefs and the public response forms provided with the Plan.

Opinions and comments covered a wide range of topics but overall the public response reflected general endorsement of the Plan's underlying philosophy and goals. Respondents emphasized the need for continued support for the tourism industry but thought that commercial development must not overwhelm the community's residential, environmental and social service capabilities.

A summary of public comments has been prepared and will be mailed to all those who participated. Copies are

also available from the Public Consultation Coordinator in the Western Regional Office, Calgary.

The Town of Banff General Municipal Plan is being revised in response to the comments received during the public consultation process. The Plan will then be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment for approval. Work has already begun on a new Land Use By-law which will establish detailed regulations and standards for all development. The by-law provides the legislative "teeth" for the General Municipal Plan and will be approved by the Minister of the Environment.

PARK PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public consultation is an integral part of the planning process for National Parks and National Historic Parks. The public consultation program proceeds through the four park management plan stages. These stages and the roles of the Canadian Parks Service and the public are outlined below.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Canadian Parks Service Role</u>	<u>Public's Role</u>
		Express opinions and values about the future of the parks by:
1. Preparation of the purpose and objectives statement for a park and issue identification.	Present a draft of the purpose and objectives statement for the park. Present a preliminary list of issues.	Reviewing and commenting on the proposed purpose and objective statement and preliminary list of issues.
2. Data collection, analysis and synthesis.	Collect and analyse data on the park resources and visitor uses. Summarize and present the data. Present key issues.	Reviewing and commenting on background papers and key issues.
3. Formulation of management plan alternatives or a draft plan.	Develop and present alternative park management plans.	Reviewing and commenting on alternative plan proposals or draft plan.
4. Development and approval of final plan.*	Develop draft of final plan and submit it to the Minister of the Environment for approval. Present summary of park management plan.	Reviewing management plan summary.

*An additional stage of consultation may be included as part of stage four if public review of the draft plan or alternative plan proposals resulted in significant deviation in public comment. An additional stage of consultation would also be considered if the final plan contained proposals which were significantly different from those reviewed by the public at stage three.

HOW IS PUBLIC COMMENT USED?

Reviewing plans and proposals in order to provide comments takes time and commitment. When people take the time to express their opinions it may be very frustrating if a plan does not reflect these views. When this happens questions such as "How is public input used?" and "Does public comment really make a difference?" are asked. It might be helpful to read about some cases where public input influenced decisions as well as some reasons for variation from public comment.

Public discussions have helped planners develop proposals. One very successful case was the development of a policy for alpine huts in the Four Mountain Parks. During the preparation of the park management plans, the Canadian Parks Service and the Alpine Club of Canada held workshops with alpine hut users and environmental groups. The expertise and experiences of participants guided the planners in making decisions about hut locations, size limits, and types of services to be offered. As Judy Otton, Park Planner described, "This input was extremely helpful in preparing the park plans. In fact, the recommendations from the workshop were used, almost verbatim."

Public comment also helps identify issues that require more information or attention. The final Mt. Norquay Ski Area Long Range Plan includes a number of changes made as a result of comments received during the public consultation program. Most noteworthy are that the proposed boundary was revised to exclude a larger area of the south facing slopes, a proposed upper level traverse on the Skyline Ridge was not approved, restrictions have been placed on construction of parking lot four and water withdrawal will be carefully monitored.

At other times public input provides strong support for directions that the Parks Service would like to take. For instance, the closure of fire roads in the Four Mountain Parks was strongly supported throughout the public consultation process. The public may also bring forward detailed information from personal experience, such as the location of a patch of rare flowers.

Nonetheless there are occasions when decisions are made which individuals or groups do not support. This happens for any of a number of reasons. On controversial issues, public input may be very polarized and any decision would be against the desires of a number of people. In other cases, the

opinions of a particular interest group are outweighed by considerations for broader public opinion. Another significant reason is that there are factors other than public input that must be considered. The Parks Service must also consider information about environmental and social-economic factors, other government programs and policies, practical park operational factors and policy. It is not always possible to satisfy public opinion however it is considered and respected. We also believe that it is our responsibility to explain the reasons for decisions.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We are interested in your thoughts about the public consultation process in the Western Region. We welcome your concerns, questions or suggestions about how we involve you. For instance, do you have any comments about the mail-out packages and response forms, the use of open houses and meetings, the public input summaries? It would be helpful to know what aspects of the public consultation process you think we do well and those areas in which you would like to see changes. Please contact the Public Consultation Coordinator at the address on the mail-back card or at 403-292-4418.

NATIONAL PARKS SKI AREAS

NEW LIFTS AT LAKE LOUISE

The Canadian Parks Service has given construction approval for two new ski lifts, both of which were approved in the Lake Louise Ski Area Development Plan, 1981. The lower lift, Glacier Twin Quad Chair, will parallel the existing Glacier triple chair and terminate near Whitehorn Lodge. The upper lift will travel from the upper Glacier Twin terminal to the Saddle Ridge area.

Construction of both lifts has commenced and will be directed by the park in accordance with terms and conditions specified in construction agreements. A Park Warden has been appointed as Environmental Surveillance Officer and he will be responsible for monitoring the projects.

Two construction requests associated with the upper chairlift have been denied. A skier cat-track on the face of Whitehorn Peak, and a buried-pipe snow-making system were not approved based on the results of environmental assessments. The ski area operator will be required to establish the up-hill capacity of the lift in accordance with the available downhill capacity of groomed ski slopes and snow-built traverses. Snow-making by use of buried-pipe will be studied for possible future application.

SUNSHINE SKI AREA EXPANSION PROPOSAL

In late April, Lucien Bouchard, Minister of the Environment accepted Sunshine Village Corporation's request to withdraw its development proposal. As a result, the public meetings originally scheduled for May were cancelled.

Sunshine Village has indicated that it will submit, within the next 18 months, a substantially modified proposal. Representatives of the Canadian Parks Service and the Corporation are currently meeting in order to develop guidelines to direct the preparation of any future proposal. When these guidelines are complete, they will be distributed to all those on the public consultation mailing list for the project. Any forthcoming proposals will be subject to rigorous public consultation and environmental assessment.

Many submissions have been received in response to the Canadian Parks Service analysis released in March. We appreciate the considerable effort expended in developing these. Although the public consultation was cancelled these response forms and briefs are being reviewed as they provide a good understanding of public values concerning the previous proposal and the Parks Service analysis.

MT. NORQUAY PLAN APPROVED

In May, Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard announced approval of the development plan for the Mt. Norquay Ski Area. Key elements of the plan include:

- abandonment and rehabilitation of an existing ski run on the south-facing slope of Mt. Norquay;
- expansion of the ski area onto Skyline Ridge;
- increasing the area's skier capacity from 1100 to 2700 skiers per day;
- construction of a new day lodge, maintenance facilities and sewage treatment system; and
- expansion of existing parking lots and the snowmaking system.

Copies of the approved plan will be mailed to all those who participated in the Mt. Norquay public consultation program in late 1988. Copies are also available from the Public Consultation Coordinator in Calgary.

Development at Mt. Norquay commenced this summer. The most obvious changes are run clearing on Skyline Ridge and construction of the day lodge facility. New facilities and runs are expected to be in operation by the 1990-91 ski season.

MAILING LIST

Help us keep our mailing list current by returning the enclosed mailback card and notifying us of any address changes.

Requests for information noted on the PARTICIPATION - UPDATE FALL 1988 mail-back card have been added to our records. We will send you the information as it becomes available.

Public Consultation

Mail-back Card

We are establishing and updating our mailing lists. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming programs, and wish to receive more information, please indicate with a ☒

South Moresby/Gwaii Haanas ☐

Waterton Lakes ☐

Pacific Rim ☐

Lake O'Hara ☐

Elk Island ☐

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